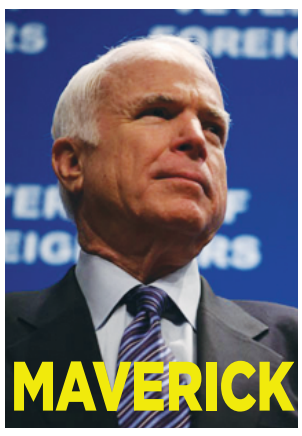
Volume 19 No. 6

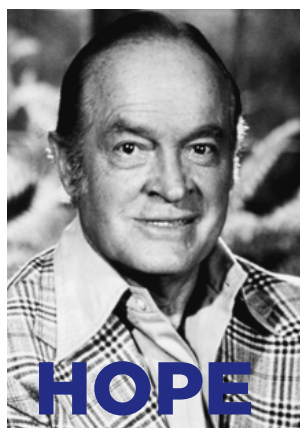
October 2008

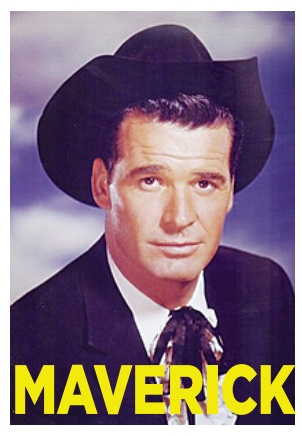
WORKS IN PROGRESS

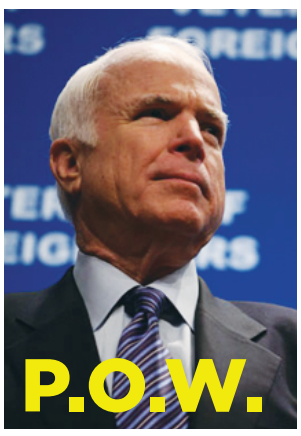
ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

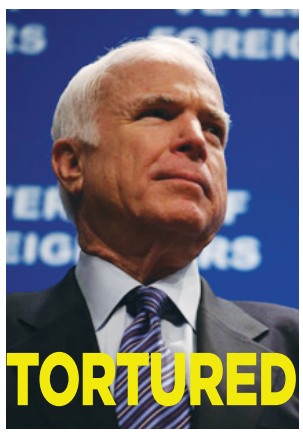
A VERY SPECIAL VOTER'S GUIDE — TAKE YOUR PICK!

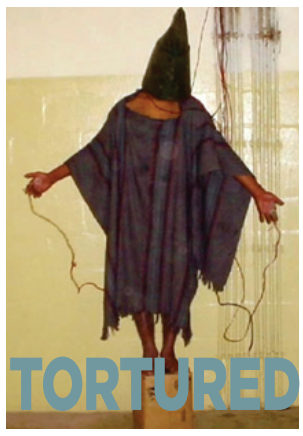


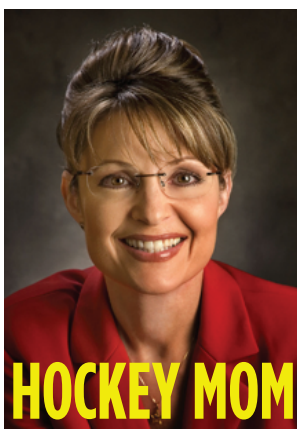


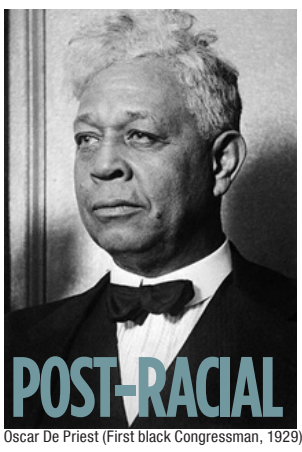




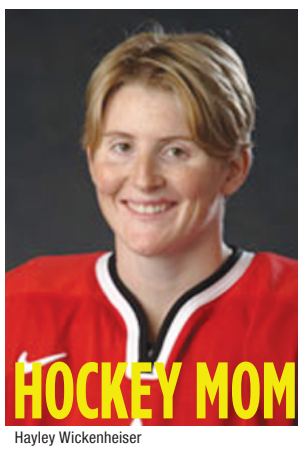




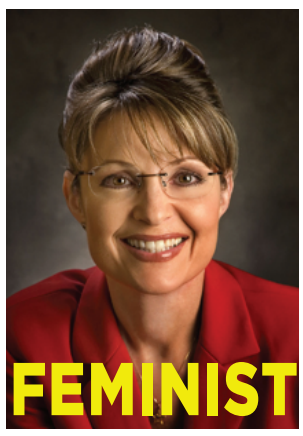


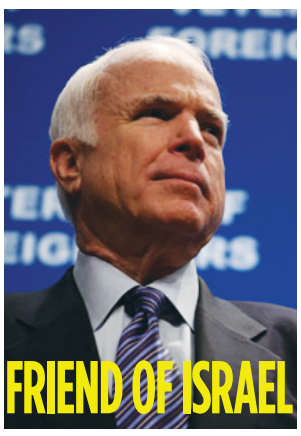


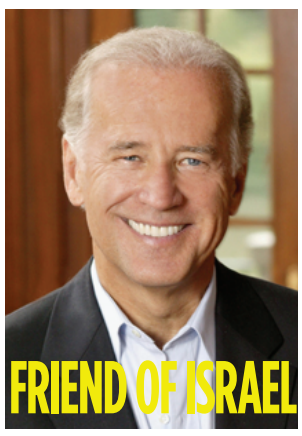
Oscar De Priest (First black Congressman, 1929)

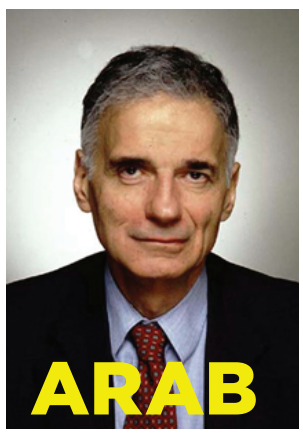


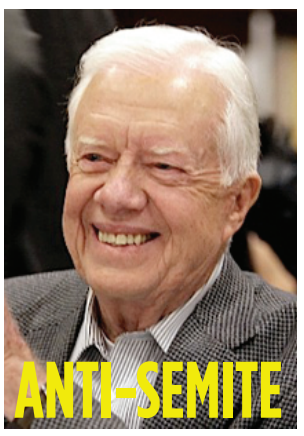
Hayley Wickenheiser

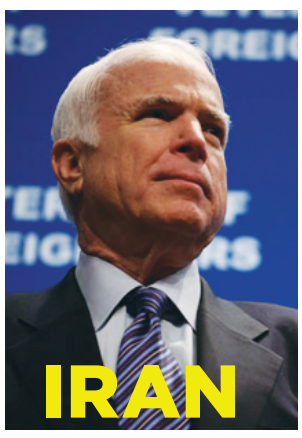


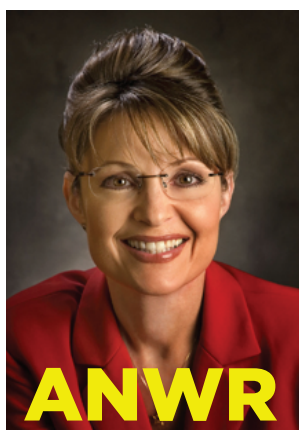


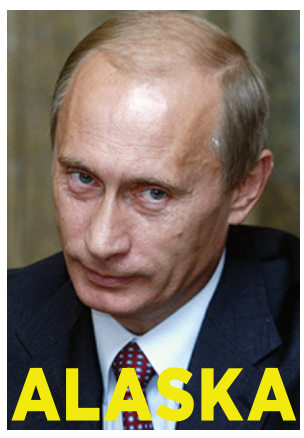


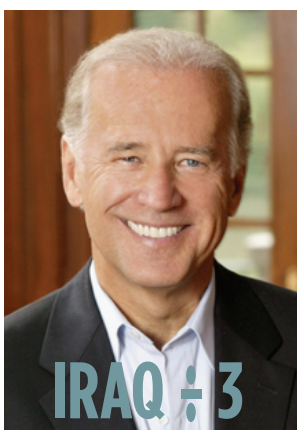


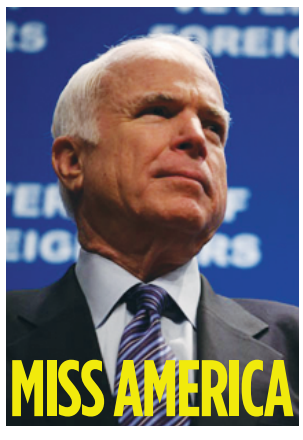


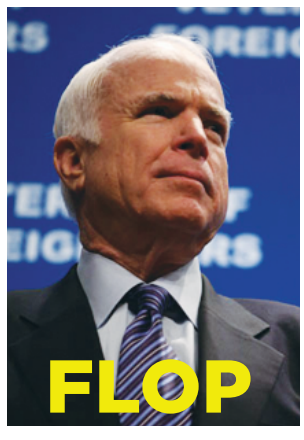












Rules for voting: Contestants will be judged on appearance, rhetoric, empty slogans, false promises, campaign tactics, and how they make you feel. Choose wisely. The fate of the world depends on it!

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *submissions@olywip.org* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

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Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

Yes, due to special circumstances, we're printing in color this month, *at no extra cost to you!* This is a one-time thing, however. At the time of publication, Congress has not passed a bill to bail us out. So it's still up to *Works in Progress* readers like you to keep us afloat.

Consider a donation to the address below!

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
Oct. 23

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

Coalition seeks volunteers to serve the homeless

The Close the Gap Coalition is seeking volunteers to help eliminate unsheltered or "street" homelessness. The Coalition aims to boost the volunteer base for existing programs to an extent that opportunities for capacity growth open up.

Setting a target of 80 new regular volunteers, the Coalition seeks volunteers to staff Camp Quixote's host tent, Interfaith Work's emergency overflow shelter, and the Family Support Center's homeless outreach and shelter referral programs.

Downtown Olympia has taken the bulk of the public impacts of unsheltered homelessness, spurring the City Council to enact bans on sidewalk-sitting and overnight RV parking. The Close the Gap Coalition intends to reduce or eliminate unsheltered homelessness and its public impacts – thereby eliminating the need to pass similar laws in the future. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Phil Owen, the Family Support Center's Outreach Coordinator, at 360 754-9297 ext 200.

Women's art and work collective

A women's art and work collective has formed in Olympia. We are having regular "Soup and Bread" meetings once or twice a week. For more info on next meeting place and time, email esmereldamay@yahoo.com

POWER: Call to Artists

POWER will be holding our annual sale and celebration of local artists, POWER-Full Art, on November 29th and 30th. Artists can keep up to 50% of the proceeds, the rest will benefit POWER. If you would like to contribute art or crafts, please contact us at: 360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716; welfarerights@riseup.net; oly-wa.us/power/; myspace.com/parentsorganizing

Support radical youth

Stonewall Youth Speaker's Bureau is trying to find 30 people to donate $10 a person to help enable them to get to Oakland for the Critical Resistance Conference. Stonewall Youth would like the Speaker's Bureau to have the opportunity to venture out and build community, and see themselves within a broad social justice movement. Convergences like Critical Resistance give them the opportunity to meet other progressively minded organizers, to see the state of what work is being done, and to sustain connections. If you would like to donate $10, please contact Kristyn at 360-951-0741 or send at email to speakersbureau@stonewallyouth.org.

POWER Meeting: Telling our stories

Monday, Oct. 6-telling our stories from a position of power, effective public speaking without victimization. We will discuss and practice to build our skills.

Enjoy a night out with POWER, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, with childcare and a potluck meal. We meet the first Monday of each month at 5:30 at the First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE. We end by 8 pm.

For more information, contact POWER at 360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716; welfarerights@riseup.net , www.olywa.us/power, www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing

"Solar Energy: Feasible and Affordable in the Pacific Northwest"

featuring Kirk Haffner of South Sound Solar Monday, October 13 from 7–9 pm, MIXX 96, State and Washington, Olympia

Haffner will address such topics as winter sun, solar orietation, passive design, costs and tax break sand tax breaks, and will answer questions.The event, which is sponsored by Olympia Climate Action, will be held in the first floor meeting room of MIXX 96, corner of State and Washington in Olympia. For further information, please call Barbara at 878-9901.

Computer and calligraphy services barter fair

Thursday, Oct. 23, 6–9 pm. The Freeschool Community, 610 Columbia Street, Olympia, WA 98501

Are you a woman or women's group in need of business cards? A website? A portfolio? Flyers? Low-Price research? Or other computer work, outreach counseling or a tutor? Want to exchange products or services rather than pay fees? Tired of help from impatient people? Join us! You're invited to our Computer and Calligraphy Services Barter Fair. We've helped women-owned artists, not-for-profit women's projects and feminist activist groups, homeowners renting rooms and more! Also, private presentations available by appointment for local and out-of-state folks bartering for their services or products. Free, with snacks. Love, Warmth, Kindness...Towards Creating a Better world. For details: www.theBeautyofBarter.org.

Day of the Dead benefit: Dance for change

Earthbound Productions and The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County, are presenting a "Day of the Dead" fund-raising benefit beginning at 7 pm on Saturday evening, November 1, 2008 at the Eagles Ballroom, Fourth Avenue and Plum, Olympia. Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 at the door and can be purchased at Traditions or Rainy Day Records.

Please come out and listen to a special night of music from local-area bands. Funds will support two important community institutions in the Olympia area. The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County (CSF) was formed almost 20 years ago and provided its first grants in 1989. Earthbound Productions http://www.procession.org/index.php is about making cultural connections between communities and the natural world.

Movement Building for Economic Human Rights

featuring **Willie Baptist** with a speakout and potluck to follow Sat., Nov. 1, Talk and Speak Out: 5–6:30, potluck dinner 6:30–8. Hosted by Camp Quixote at St. John's Episcopal Church 114 20th Ave SE.

Willie Baptist is a formerly homeless father who serves as the Scholar-in-Residence for the Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary where he is responsible for the new Poverty Scholars Program training dozens of low-income leaders to become Scholars-in-Residence for other seminaries, universities, and religious institutions.

This community event hopes to encourage dialogue on issues facing poor and low income people in Olympia and around the US and on building a movement to unite the poor and their allies to fight for an end to poverty. There is no charge to get in, but donations will be accepted. Free childcare available. For more information, contact Tony Zaragoza zaragozazaragoza@yahoo.com or (360) 705-2274

After election political music: Jim Page and Teresa Tudury, Together Again After 40 Years

Sat., Nov. 8 at 8 p.m., Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Avenue SW, Downtown Olympia

Two outstanding and provocative singer songwriters, instrumentalists and social-political commentators share the stage again after over 40 years. going to get the message, this is the messenger to get it from." Tickets $12 General $8 student/low income, for more info, call 360-705-2819.

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This is your nation on white privilege

by Tim Wise

For those who still can't grasp the concept of white privilege, or who are constantly looking for some easy-to-understand examples of it, perhaps this list will help.

White privilege is when you can get pregnant at seventeen like Bristol Palin and everyone is quick to insist that your life and that of your family is a personal matter, and that no one has a right to judge you or your parents, because "every family has challenges," even as black and Latino families with similar "challenges" are regularly typified as irresponsible, pathological and arbiters of social decay.

White privilege is when you can call yourself a "fuckin' redneck," like Bristol Palin's boyfriend does, and talk about how if anyone messes with you, you'll "kick their fuckin' ass," and talk about how you like to "shoot shit" for fun, and still be viewed as a responsible, all-American boy (and a great son-in-law to be) rather than a thug.

White privilege is when you can attend four different colleges in six years like Sarah Palin did (one of which you basically failed out of, then returned to after making up some coursework at a community college), and no one questions your intelligence or commitment to achievement, whereas a person of color who did this would be viewed as unfit for college, and probably someone who only got in in the first place because of affirmative action.

White privilege is when you can claim that being mayor of a town smaller than most medium-sized colleges, and then Governor of a state with about the same number of people as the lower fifth of the island of Manhattan, makes you ready to potentially be president, and people don't all piss on themselves with laughter, while being a black US Senator, two-term state Senator, and constitutional law scholar, means you're "untested."

White privilege is being able to say that you support the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance because "if it was good enough for the founding fathers, it's good enough for me," and not be immediately disqualified from holding office—since, after all, the pledge was written in the late 1800s and the "under God" part wasn't added until the 1950s—while believing that reading accused criminals and terrorists their rights (because, ya know, the Constitution, which you used to teach at a prestigious law school requires it), is a dangerous and silly idea only supported by mushy liberals.

White privilege is when you can get pregnant at seventeen like Bristol Palin and everyone is quick to insist that your life and that of your family is a personal matter.

White privilege is being able to be a gun enthusiast and not make people immediately scared of you. White privilege is being able to have a husband who was a member of an extremist political party that wants your state to secede from the Union, and whose motto was "Alaska first," and no one questions your patriotism or that of your family, while if you're black and your spouse merely fails to come to a 9/11 memorial so she can be home with her kids on the first day of school, people immediately think she's being disrespectful.

White privilege is being able to make fun of community organizers and the work they do—like, among other things, fight for the right of women to vote, or for civil rights, or the 8-hour workday, or an end to child labor—and people think you're being pithy and tough, but if you merely question the experience of a small town mayor and 18-month governor with no foreign policy expertise beyond a class she took in college—you're somehow being mean, or even sexist.

White privilege is being able to convince white women who don't even agree with you on any substantive issue to vote for you and your running mate anyway, because all of a sudden your presence on the ticket has inspired confidence in these same white women, and made them give your party a "second look."

White privilege is being able to fire people who didn't support your political campaigns and not be accused of abusing your power or being a typical politician who engages in favoritism, while being black and merely knowing some folks from the old-line political machines in Chicago means you must be corrupt.

White privilege is being able to attend churches over the years whose pastors say that people who voted for John Kerry or merely criticize George W. Bush are going to hell, and that the US is an explicitly Christian nation and the job of Christians is to bring Christian theological principles into government, and who bring in speakers who say the conflict in the Middle East is God's punishment on Jews for rejecting Jesus, and everyone can still think you're just a good church-going Christian, but if you're black and friends with a black pastor who has noted (as have Colin Powell and the US Department of Defense) that terrorist attacks are often the result of US foreign policy and who talks about the history of racism and its effect on black people, you're an extremist who probably hates America.

White privilege is not knowing what the Bush Doctrine is when asked by a reporter, and then people get angry at the reporter for asking you such a "trick question," while being black and merely refusing to give one-word answers to the queries of Bill O'Reilly means you're dodging the question, or trying to seem overly intellectual and nuanced.

White privilege is being able to claim your experience as a POW has anything at all to do with your fitness for president, while being black and experiencing racism is, as Sarah Palin has referred to it a "light" burden.

And finally, white privilege is the only thing that could possibly allow someone to become president when he has voted with George W. Bush 90 percent of the time, even as unemployment is skyrocketing, people are losing their homes, inflation is rising, and the US is increasingly isolated from world opinion, just because white voters aren't sure about that whole "change" thing. Ya know, it's just too vague and ill-defined, unlike, say, four more years of the same, which is very concrete and certain.

White privilege is, in short, the problem.

Tim Wise is the author of White Like Me *(Soft Skull, 2005, revised 2008), and of* Speaking Treason Fluently, *publishing this month, also by Soft Skull. For review copies or interview requests, please write to* publicity@softskull.com

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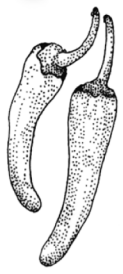

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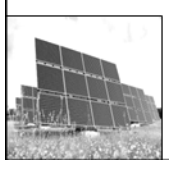

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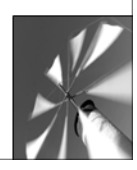

Paid for by Chris Stearns for Thurston County P.U.D.

Surviving the RNC

by Tovah Rudawski

Minnesota: the oddly-shaped midwest state with ten thousand lakes, Lutherans galore, and hot dishes. Added to that list this September: an invasion of thousands of Republicans, busloads upon busloads swarming towards the Xcel Energy Center. Much to my dismay, my home state had been transformed into a terrifying police state, downtown St Paul playing the part of the locked down and gridded out battleground.

It is correct in every aspect to state that political repression was in full force during the convention. While Republicans were safely inside the Xcel Center, patting themselves on the backs for putting their "country first," fifteen-year-olds were being put in handcuffs. Houses were raided and gray water buckets were hauled away as evidence. Hundreds of people were sprayed with chemical weapons and chased into parks and alleyways by masked police on horses. This kind of violence not only affects those who experience it physically, but it affects those who witness it and take it home with them.

Children marching with their parents saw these things happen. Two children that I used to babysit for attended Monday's Anti-War March with their parents and later told me that they felt scared of the riot cops they saw. They talked of the anarchists they saw, and the lines of fully-geared riot police, and had come to their own conclusion that the cops were not there to protect anyone and that the anarchists weren't as scary as they had thought they would be.

This experience has made the concepts of police brutality and violence that I hear and read so much about come extremely alive. I have always felt uncomfortable when people referred to police in a dehumanizing way. However, what is now more clear than ever is the severe disparity of power and control. Those who have that power are the riot cops; those without are those who choose to exercise their political right to protest. The anger and violence that result from the clashing of these two groups is alarming and incredibly harmful for all parties involved. It could be easily concluded, however, that the way these different groups of people deal with that anger and violence is different. The protesters end up in jail, beaten and worn down; the riot cops are the ones who deal the beatings, receive overtime pay and go home without having further repercussions for what has happened. Where does that anger, that inexplicable rage go at the end of any of these RNC days?

I realize how fortunate I am to come out of this experience with a lawyer and a family firmly in support of me, and to have been treated better than most were in jail. This does nothing to change the fact that being put into an orange jumpsuit and confined to a solitary cell for three days is a dehumanizing, awful experience. Witnessing ICE agents coming into the jail to look for people to interrogate about their citizenship was unbelievably disturbing—as was seeing a young woman who was violently dragged by her scalp up the stairs. Her 'crime' had been banging on her cell door, along with many others, in protest of ICE coming in and taking a young woman into an interrogation room. I will never understand why people treat others like that.

Nor will I understand why I wasn't allowed to make a phone call before my immediate release—the two women in the front of the van dropped myself and two other women on a street corner miles outside of downtown, without our cell phones, IDs, or any money. They refused to let me use their phone to tell my mother where they were taking me. They did this to many others as they were released, instead of letting them walk outside the front doors of the jail into the arms of people waiting in solidarity with food and comfort.

This is how I feel today: I'd like an explanation and apology. What I have instead is a November court date. I am being charged with a gross misdemeanor in the 3rd degree for rioting, along with seventeen others. The eighteen of us have been told by those with power that we were simultaneously throwing urine, feces, cement, and fireworks at a line of innocent riot cops. The sheer absurdity of being accused of this leaves me with a bizarre feeling inside. I am still traumatized, angry and confused. It makes it harder that those I was arrested and jailed with are now scattered all across the country. It's going to take time for this to settle and for me to heal—and it's going to take time for the thousands of people that this has affected and is affecting.

There is some light that comes out of these conventions, these celebrations of wealth and power that happen whether we like it or not every four years. This is what is happening: cities across the country are being radicalized, one by one. This makes me feel a little better about being called a poop-thrower. Mainstream America, "fiscally conservative but socially liberal" people, everyday folks that don't consider themselves radical—whatever you want to call them—are seeing and experiencing things that they normally do not have to confront. While many won't know the truth, because of what corporate media reports, many more will because it's happening in their streets, to their children or their children's friends. They can see who and what is being protected, and they know it is not their cities or their neighbors. This is the point—and it makes me feel better. It has the potential to make us all feel better—because it's happening right now and will continue to happen as we go on about our lives in Olympia.

The eighteen of us have been told...that we were simultaneously throwing urine, feces, cement, and fireworks at a line of innocent riot cops. The sheer absurdity of being accused of this leaves me with a bizarre feeling inside.

Tovah Rudawski is a senior at Evergreen, worked at POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) for the past year, and enjoys loud music and short bike rides.

Pictured are scenes from outside the 2008 Republican National Convention. Photos at the top and directly to the left are by Robert Root.

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Olympia is nuclear weapons-free no longer

City council repeals ordinance through speedy process, disregard for public consent

by Tim Russell

At the Sept. 9 city council meeting, members voted 5–2 to repeal Ordinance 6411, the Nuclear Free Zone Act. Despite 53 testimonies in favor of retaining and enhancing it, and despite 400 signatures gathered in four short days, members of the council arrogantly felt they knew Olympia's wishes better, and voted the ordinance down. Only two people had spoken in favor of repealing the ordinance.

If this wasn't sufficiently arrogant, the matter had been placed on the Consent Calendar, and was only given adequate time for testimony by a last minute decision. That is, members of the city council had decided their vote before listening to public testimony, and were only awaiting the opportunity for consent with fellow members.

The city council had decided their vote before listening to public testimony, and were only awaiting the opportunity for consent with fellow members.

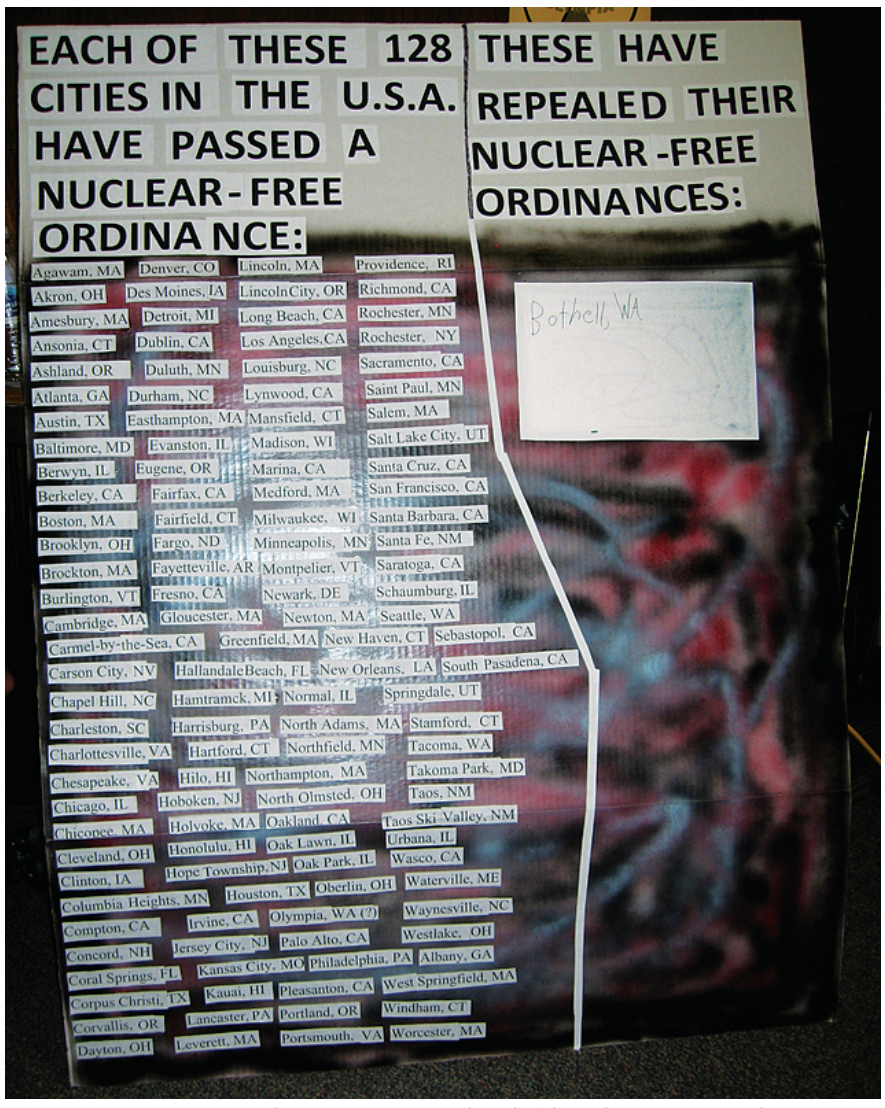
You ask what kind of process is this? This is the very point that former council member Laura Ware brought to attention in her testimony. Ware noted that when originating the ordinance, the course included extensive process in committee and through various stages of deliberation before being voted upon. To repeal it, three members of the council—Kingsbury, Ottavelli and Strub—voted it onto the consent calendar for the Sept. 9, with only a 30 minute opportunity for comment.

To challenge anyone's sense of democracy further, for the first time ever, the City Manager limited the number of persons allowed in the council chambers to three persons standing, beyond the number of chairs. Many people were turned away.

Council members who opposed the ordinance repeatedly claimed that the ordinance was unenforceable. But instead of fixing it, as council member Hyer suggested they do, members in opposition sought a resolution that was sufficiently empty, such that there is nothing to enforce.

One of the ironies about this move by five members of the city council is that throughout the meeting they sought to convince the public of their complete abhorrence of these weapons, and ongoing desire to rid them from the planet. This is true for those members who weren't too cowardly to remain silent on the issue. It should be noted that Ottavelli said nothing on the matter. And Mah essentially said, take your passion to the federal level. To demonstrate their convictions, they seek a toothless resolution.

Meanwhile at the federal level, the US government undercuts the Non-Proliferation treaty by refusing to dismantle weapons to an allowable extent, by making arms deals with Israel and India, two non-signatories, and pouring millions into modernizing old systems and developing new ones, our local government wants to replace a substantive ordinance with a warm and fuzzy statement of values called a resolution. While the Trident submarine base at Bremerton—only an hour's drive away—houses a greater concentration of nuclear weapons than anywhere else on the planet, the Olympia city council wants to "duck and cover," like we were told to do in the 1950s in case of a nuclear attack.



This sign is now outdated. (Photo by Diana Arens)

Invasion of the sea smurfs

by Amy Goodman

A little-noticed story surfaced a couple of weeks ago in the Army Times newspaper about the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team. "Beginning Oct. 1 for 12 months," reported *Army Times* staff writer Gina Cavallaro, "the 1st BCT will be under the day-to-day control of US Army North, the Army service component of Northern Command, as an on-call federal response force for natural or manmade emergencies and disasters, including terrorist attacks." Disturbingly, she writes that "they may be called upon to help with civil unrest and crowd control" as well.

The force will be called the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive Consequence Management Response Force. Its acronym, CCMRF, is pronounced "sea-smurf." These "sea-smurfs," Cavallaro reports, have "spent 35 of the last 60 months in Iraq patrolling in full battle rattle," in a combat zone, and now will spend their 20-month "dwell time"—time troops are required to spend to "reset and regenerate after a deployment"—armed and ready to hit the US streets.

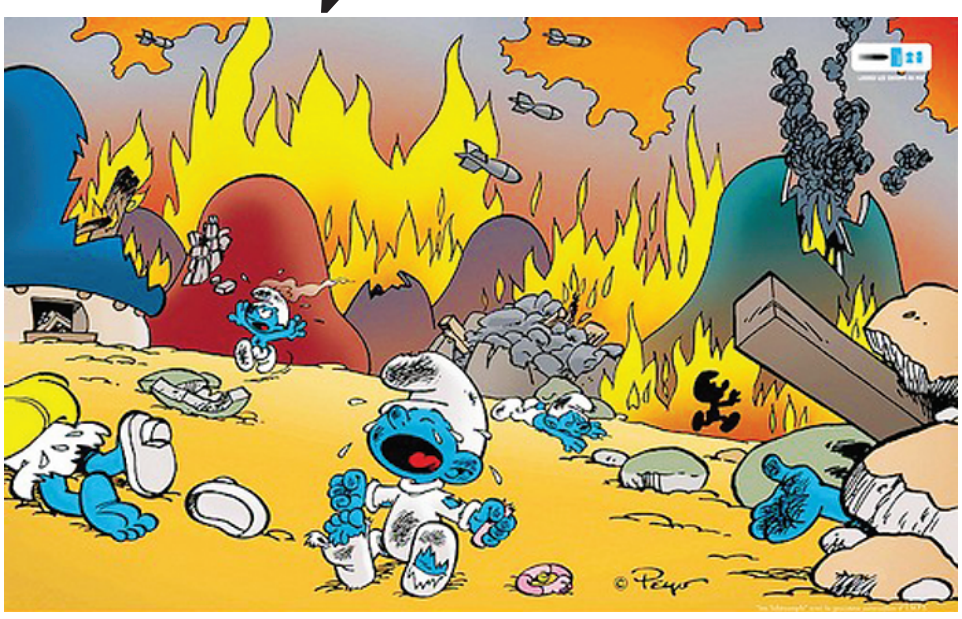
The *Army Times* piece includes a correction stating that the forces would not use nonlethal weaponry domestically. I called Air Force Lt. Col. Jamie Goodpaster, a public-affairs officer for Northern Command. She told me that the overall mission was humanitarian, to save lives and help communities recover from catastrophic events. Nevertheless, the military forces would have weapons on-site, "containerized," she said-that is, stored in containers-including both lethal and so-called nonlethal weapons. They would have mostly wheeled vehicles, but would also, she said, have access to tanks. She said that any decision to use weapons would be made at a higher level, perhaps at the secretary-of-defense level.

Talk of trouble on US streets is omnipresent now, with the juxtaposition of Wall Street and Main Street. The financial crisis we face remains obscure to most people; titans of business and government officials assure us that the financial system is "on the brink," that a massive bailout is necessary, immediately, to prevent a disaster. Conservative and progressive members of Congress, at the insistence of constituents, blocked the initial plan. If the economy does collapse, if people can't go down to the bank to withdraw their savings, or get cash from an ATM, there may be serious "civil unrest," and the "sea-smurfs" may be called upon sooner than we imagine to assist with "crowd control."

The political and financial establishments seem completely galled that people would actually oppose their massive bailout, which rewards financiers for gambling. Normal people worry about paying their bills, buying groceries and gas, and paying rent or a mortgage in increasingly uncertain times. No one ever offers to bail them out. Wall Street's house of cards has collapsed, and the rich bankers are getting little sympathy from working people.

That's where the sea-smurfs come in. Officially formed to respond to major disasters, like a nuclear or biological attack, this combat brigade falls under the US Northern Command, a military structure formed on Oct, 1, 2002, to "provide command and control of Department of Defense homeland defense efforts." Military participation in domestic operations was originally outlawed with the Posse Comitatus Act in 1878. The John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, however, included a section that allowed the president to deploy the armed forces to "restore public order" or to suppress "any insurrection." While a later bill repealed this, President Bush attached a signing statement that he did not feel bound by the repeal.

These "sea-smurfs" have "spent 35 of the last 60 months in Iraq patrolling in full battle rattle," and now will spend their 20-month "dwell time" armed and ready to hit the US streets.



We are in a time of increasing economic disparity, with the largest gap between rich and poor of any wealthy industrialized country. We are witnessing a crackdown on dissent, most recently with $100 million spent on "security" at the Democratic and Republican national conventions. The massive paramilitary police forces deployed at the RNC in St. Paul, Minn., were complete overkill, discouraging protests and conducting mass arrests (National Guard troops just back from Fallujah were there). The arrest there of almost 50 journalists (myself included) showed a clear escalation in attempting to control the message (akin to the ban on photos of flag-draped coffins of soldiers). There are two ongoing, unpopular wars that are costing lives and hundreds of billions of dollars. Nobel-winning economist Joe Stiglitz estimates that Iraq alone will cost more than $3 trillion.

In Dec. 2001, in the midst of restricted access to bank accounts due to a financial crisis, respectable, middle-class Argentines rose up, took to the streets, smashed bank windows and ultimately forced the government out of power, despite a massive police crackdown and a failed attempt to control the media. Here in the US, with the prospect of a complete failure of our financial system, the people have spoken and do not want an unprecedented act of corporate welfare. We don't know how close the system is to collapse, nor do we know how close the people are to taking to the streets. The creation of an active-duty military force, the sea-smurfs, that could be used to suppress public protest here at home is a very bad sign.

Amy Goodman is the host of Democracy Now! *a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on more than 700 stations in North America. Denis Moynihan contributed to this column.*

Catching up with military resister Suzanne Swift

By Wally Cuddeford

As reported previously in Works In Progress, *Military Police Specialist Suzanne Swift went AWOL in Jan. 2005, the date of her redeployment to Iraq. She had endured sexual harassment in Kuwait at the hands of her platoon sergeant and subsequent command rape, public humiliation and harassment by her squad leader in Iraq. In Dec. 2006, Swift appeared before a hastily assembled court-martial and agreed to a deal with the military, which included a 30-day sentence in "the brig," a reduction in rank, and a continuation of her military service. The full text of her interview with Wally Cuddeford is available at* www.olywip.org.

A lot of people are familiar with the background of your story, so I'm going to start with the Army's AWOL case against you. Could you tell us about how that resolved?

Well, they started out charging me with a Special Court Martial, which is a type of Court Martial they have. The penalty for that carries reduction to the lowest pay grade, a year's confinement, forfeiture of all pay and a bad conduct discharge, which leaves you with almost no benefits. So my lawyer was really pushing for a deal where I would plead guilty to the charges of missing movement and AWOL, but not desertion, and would stipulate the things we all took for granted, that we agreed to be true. Such as, I didn't deploy with my unit when I agreed to. Stuff like that.

I got the first draft, but what they really wanted me to sign was a stipulation of fact of all this other stuff. It basically said, "Specialist Swift claimed to blah blah blah" and "supposedly blah blah blah." It also said I "refused to deploy" which "directly hindered their ability to complete their dangerous wartime mission"—the "dangerous wartime mission" where not one soldier at any time fired a weapon or was fired on at all. I tried adding that. Actually, I wrote a lot of my own stuff right there on their stipulation. And I'd send it back to them, and they'd send it back to me.

By the end they were so fed up with it, the deal was going to be no jail for a year, the option of either 30 days confinement or 60 days hard labor, a reduction in rank, and loss of pay for a month.

So during the break, I saw my mom just B.S-ing with the Lieutenant Colonel in the hall. I could hear her telling the Lieutenant Colonel about our legal expenses through all this with both our civilian lawyers. And they B.S.-ed for a while. So we come back, and the Colonel asked me a couple questions, and had me go through the whole story of what happened to me. I broke down crying a couple times while recalling it all. After that, we had to wait outside for an hour while she thought about what she wanted to do.

I got a reduction to E-1, the lowest pay grade, and 30 days confinement. But then the Lieutenant Colonel said "Your mom was telling me about your financial struggle through all this, so I'm not going to take away any money." All the testimony had no impact, but her B.S.-ing with my mom about how much it cost was the only part of anybody talking during any of it that made any difference at all.

Suzanne Swift, right, with her mother, Sara Rich.

So, are you still at the reduced rank today?

No, I'm actually an E-4 now. Back where it all began.

Where does your case stand now? Is the campaign to force the military to release you early and give you medical benefits still going on at this moment?

No. I thought about keeping up the fight but I got here and realized just how much of a struggle it really was. By the time I got to Fort Irwin, I only had 18 months left in the Army anyway, so I just decided to keep my head down and not be a pain in the ass. They all know who I am and what I'm about. They know I'm anti-war. They know they can argue about it all they want and I'll still win. They know I'm right, but they want to stick to their opinion.

Are there any expectations or restrictions put on you at Fort Irwin that you believe single you out for your politics?

No, not that I know of. But I do know that when I was going to my unit, that particular unit had to have a meeting about how to handle me. I mean, I was a *huge* pain in the ass at Fort Lewis. I can see how these people thought I was going to bring protesters outside the gate at Fort Irwin. Imagine their relief when none of that followed me.

Do you have people at Fort Irwin come up and ask "Hey, wait a second. Are you the same Suzanne Swift that was in the news?"

Yup. Once, I was sitting at work, checking my personal e-mail, which you're not supposed to do, and I look behind me and there's a Lieutenant standing there. I thought, "Oh shit!" I thought he was going to yell at me for using a military computer for personal stuff. I played it cool, asking if he wanted to use the computer, but he said "No, I've been following your case and [Lt. Ehren] Watada's since they first started in the news. I just wanted to thank you for speaking out." I thought I was gonna get my ass chewed, and there I was being congratulated and told I was a hero.

I understand you routinely attend national anti-war events, including the historic Winter Soldier hearing in Washington, DC this past March. Could you tell us about your experience at Winter Soldier, or about any other IVAW events you've attended?

Winter Soldier was *really* powerful. Just like every other IVAW event I've been to. Everything that people say, I'm like "*Yes*! I thought I was the only one!' In the Army, when you're anti-war—and most everyone is—you always think you're the only one, because leadership is so psyched about it. But then you go to IVAW events, and you learn that there's a whole group of people who feel the same way. I always come out of them feeling 'Yes, we can do this. We can make this change.'

But let me tell you about what happened in Austin recently! Ann Wright and SWAN [Service Women's Action Network] put on a production of the *Vagina Monologues* in Austin, Texas, that was dedicated to military sexual assault survivors. The survivors who were there were myself, April Fitzsimmons, and Dorothy Mackie. We all performed different parts in the *Vagina Monologues*, which was awesome. And Eve Ensler, who wrote the *Vagina Monologues*, was there. Afterward, she got on stage with a brand new monologue for the *Monologues*, which she was still writing and was trying it out on people. It's called "Going AWOL," and it's dedicated to military sexual assault survivors. She said she's considering making it a permanent part of the *Vagina Monologues* from now on. It was so powerful. April and I were just holding on to each other and crying as she announced it. It was intense.

So, how often do you receive messages of support from others who have gone through the same thing? Have the messages tapered off at all over the last couple years? And also tell us about the different ways you get these messages?

My mom gets most of the messages from people, because her e-mail address is on the website. She constantly gets cries for help from people whom it's happening to right now. We do whatever we can, and we call and talk to them. Whatever we can. But usually, if we get a message, it's a support message, not a cry for help.

We also get a lot of messages through MySpace. My friend Desiree—she lives in Florida, and I've never actually met her—set up the Support Suzanne Swift MySpace page, and she gets a lot of messages there. If there's anything important, she just forwards them on to me at my real MySpace. Also, some people send messages to a MySpace page called "Suzanne Swift," who's not really me.

And I actually find people on my Army e-mail. They look me up on the Army website, and we have a directory of Army e-mails, and people find me on there. People I've never heard of in my entire life, and they just say they're supportive, and basically, "Rock on!"

After your case got big, there were a bunch of depictions of generic military sexual assault survivors, like in* Doonesbury *and on the cover of* The Nation *and such, each of whom bore a very striking resemblance to you. Could you tell us a little about all that?

Haha. Yeah. The *Doonesbury* one was actually supposed to be me. My mom—or my nana actually—was the first one to notice it, and she called my mom. My mom called the *Doonesbury* guy, Garry Trudeau, and he said, "Yeah, I did that on purpose. I just wanted to make sure people kept talking about your case and about sexual assault in the military." That was very cool. And the magazine—that came out while I was in jail. My friends showed it to me the day I got out. We never got in touch with that guy, but yeah, she definitely looked like me.

Doonsbury character based on Suzanne Swift

Do you regret going public with what happened?

No, not at all. I think the result of my case would've been different, and I would've just gotten the normal discharge from the Army if I hadn't spoken up. But it's really helped a lot of other people to let them know they're not alone. And it's really public now. What's going on in the military is really public now. I wouldn't take any of that back.

What is your expected release date, and is it possible you could be released early?

My actual release date is the 29th of January, but I have enough leave saved up that I can get out on the 30th of December. Just three months to go!

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Questions arise from Evergreen subpoena

by Mike Coday

In the aftermath and investigation of the civil disturbance at the Dead Prez concert at The Evergreen State College (TESC) in Feb. 2008, TESC Registrar Andrea Coker-Anderson was served with a subpoena to turn over student records to law enforcement (as previously reported in Works in Progress). The subpoena included a non-disclosure clause that ordered the college not to disclose the subpoena and information request for 90 days. TESC complied with the subpoena and released information on 13 students that included photo identification.

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Steve Hunter revealed the subpoena and the release of student information, including photo identification, to students and staff through email on May 30 and stated: "The College is bound by law to provide the information requested by subpoena. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) permits disclosure, without consent, from a student's records in order to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena. Our standard policy for such requests is to notify the student that a request has been made and to allow seven days for the student to determine if he or she wishes to take action to suppress the subpoena in court before the subpoenaed information is provided. Because of the non-disclosure statement in this subpoena, the College was required to supply the information requested and to remain silent regarding the request until 90 days had passed."

FERPA does in fact authorize the release of student information in response to a subpoena without advance notice to students. But FERPA is not the the only set of rules that TESC is expected to follow. When asked to provide a copy of the college's policy on compliance with subpoenas, the TESC Internal Auditor Maryam Jacobs identified WAC 174-280-030 as the TESC policy.

WAC 174-280-030 reads:

Release of personally identifiable records.

(1) The college shall not permit access to or the release of education records or personally identifiable information contained therein, other than "directory information," without the written consent of the student, to any party other than the following:

(f) Any person or entity designated by judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, upon condition that the student is notified of all such orders or subpoenas in advance of compliance therewith [emphasis added]. Any college individual(s) or office(s) receiving a subpoena or judicial order for educational records should also immediately notify the assistant attorney general assigned to Evergreen;

"Directory information" is defined in FERPA and on the TESC website and does not include photo identification. This WAC simply does not provide for release of student records beyond directory information without advance notice to the student.

Several questions remain unanswered:

Did The Evergreen State College violate its policies (WAC 174-280-030 (1.)(f) when it complied with the subpoena without providing advance notice to the student targets of the subpoena?

Did the College fail to fulfill its obligations to the student targets of the subpoena when it chose full compliance as allowed under FERPA instead of challenging the non-disclosure clause of the subpoena and citing the WAC that requires advance notice to students?

Did the College act to deprive the students of their due process rights when it failed to provide the students with notice of the subpoena before turning over student records to law enforcement?

Is there any accountability or penalty if TESC violated its policies in disclosing student information without advance notice to the students?

At deadline, TESC administration have not responded to questions about the possible violation of this WAC.

Bailing out Wall Street won't save Main Street

by Moshe Adler

Wall Street must be saved for the sake of Main Street, Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke tell us. First, everyone has toxic financial instruments in their 401k's; and second, these instruments are clogging the credit system. But in fact neither claim is true.

The first claim is not true simply because the majority of United States residents don't have any retirement accounts at all. And the claim that the credit system is clogged is not true because there is no object that can be removed in order to clear it. What is true is that the securities that Wall Street invented are toxic. But this is precisely why they should remain where they belong, in the vaults of those who created and pushed them. Otherwise they will poison the rest of us, the poorest among us the most. The government can and should stave off the increase in unemployment, but the only way the government can accomplish this is by hiring workers itself. A bailout will make matters worse.

If it were indeed true that all U.S. residents owned these new financial instruments, then the decline, or even the total collapse, of their value, would actually not have made a difference to anybody. When the value of everybody's assets falls by the same proportion, nobody gains and nobody loses, because monetary wealth is only relative. Thus, if Wall Street and Main Street were really the same, there would have been no economic crisis to begin with. But the fact is, only 53% of full-time full-year workers participate in a retirement plan, and for US workers who are only part-timers or temporary workers the proportion is even lower. The majority of US workers will therefore not benefit from the bailout at all. But will they be hurt by it? Badly.

> Trickle down solutions to free market problems have had more than a fair chance.

If Wall Street fortunes were to evaporate, the result would be a major realignment of wealth in this country. The rich would become poorer, and as a result the poor would become richer. The very first thing a bailout will do is prevent this realignment from taking place. The rich will continue to have their jets and their palaces and the poor will continue to struggle to go to the doctor and to find housing. Heads, the rich win. Tails? Let's toss again.

There is no doubt that economic uncertainty leads to low investments and low borrowing. There is also no doubt that mortgage-based-securities are partially responsible for this uncertainty, although the rising price of oil plays an important role as well. But, as Keynes pointed out during the Great Depression, nobody knows how to restore lenders and investors' confidence once it has been lost. And, in all likelihood, passing the mortgage backed securities to the government will decrease, not increase, this confidence.

If the government acquires these securities, it will be left to a government employee (or, more likely, to a private contractor) to decide when "the price is right" to sell them. But the volume of these securities is fantastically large, and nobody knows how to price them anyway. The effect on financial markets will be colossal. Business schools will start teaching new courses devoted to predicting the behavior of this bureaucrat. New financial instruments will be invented to take advantage of this new "expertise." The government employee herself will either succumb, or be accused of succumbing, to an overwhelming temptation to sell the old-new securities for prices that will benefit those closest to her. The calls to regulate the new-new securities and to monitor the government employee in charge of selling the old-new securities will be deafening. The level of economic uncertainty will increase many times over, and unemployment will increase along with it.

What Keynes also pointed out during the Great Depression is that the government can increase employment by hiring workers itself. To press his argument Keynes suggested that the government could always hire half the unemployed to dig ditches and the other half to fill them up. But thanks to long years of neglect by the government, there are many government services that Main Street actually desperately needs: More teachers and better school lunches; more public transportation; more public universities with better facilities; more nurses and doctors and more medicinal drugs; more nursing homes for elderly people and more parks for the young; more housing for workers and more childcare for their children. And, Keynes explained, once the government starts using its power to stabilize employment and to increase its citizens? standard of living, there is no doubt that the economic horizon will clear and private lending and investment will rebound as well.

Normally, this would be the point at which the reader would ask: "But how do we pay for all this?" But not today. First, the government can use the money that the President and Congress want to give to Wall Street. In addition, it is now clear that executive compensation is not a just reward. It can and should be taxed, heavily, and perhaps even retroactively.

Trickle down solutions to free market problems have had more than a fair chance. The only way that the government can perform its job is to work for Main Street directly.

Moshe Adler is the director of Public Interest Economics, a consulting firm. He can be reached at ma82092@gmail.com

Why Osama bin Laden is winning

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

One of the unacknowledged tragedies of terrorist attacks on September 11 was that the attacks passed so quickly into from the realm of occurrence to the realm of legend in the collective psyches of United States residents that it has become impossible to truly understand those events. Even years after the attacks, September 11 is drenched in an almost religious and often ritualized sentimentality, often involving reflexive flag-waving or slogan-chanting.

The problem with such sentimentality is that it stifles critical thinking. It is quite unusual to have an open discussion on the events of September 11 without having the conversation rapidly decline into either nonsensical rhetoric about "why they hate our freedom" or overly elaborate, and often quite bizarre, conspiracy theories. The danger of such a lack of critical thinking leads to a failure to grasp the factors which led to the attacks, and thus increases the likelihood that similar tragedies, or even worse ones, will happen in the future.

A key component to understanding the attacks is knowing why the World Trade Center was the focal point. We must remember, while the attackers only planned one plane for the Pentagon and the White House they planned two for the World Trade Center. If their goal was really just to strike as severely as possible then why not aim for a sports stadium or college campus? If the objective was to hold the designers of US foreign policy accountable, then why not focus more energy on government buildings?

The reason that the World Trade Center was hit was explained by Osama bin Laden in his "The Towers of Lebanon" speech on October 29, 2004. In it bin Laden stated that Al Qaeda's goal had never been to defeat the United States militarily. Admittedly so, that feat is impossible. Rather, Al Qaeda has sought a collapse of the United States from within. The point of the attacks was to lure the US into military conflicts and weaken its economic infrastructure in order to "bleed America to the point of bankruptcy, by God's will. For God is able to do that." He brags that for every dollar that Al Qaeda spends in its jihad, the Bush administration spends a million on the war on terror.

The collapse of the World Trade Centers did not lead to the immediate economic meltdown that Al Qaeda was hoping for. However, where Islamic fundamentalists have failed, Wall Street has succeeded. The US is now experiencing a massive economic meltdown not seen since the Great Depression.

It is the result, not of the terrorism of airplane highjackings, but of the terrorism of predatory lending, speculative investing, and bogging debt. In response to this crisis, the Bush administration has proposed a $700 billion bailout, a solution that will at best slightly forestall the collapse and probably make it much worse later on.

The bailout is all to the delight of corporate executives who will get a golden parachute out of the deal, and of course Osama bin Laden. In fact, bin Laden has never really seen the Bush administration as an enemy – trusting in the irresponsibility and zealotry of the administration to lead to the US decline. He admits that to some "analysts and diplomats, it seems as if we and the White House are on the same team, shooting at the United States' own goal, despite our different intentions."

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Bin Laden's strategy of economically bleeding a country by getting it bogged down in military conflicts is not exactly original. It was the same strategy that the US adopted in trying to destroy the Soviet Union. Since the oil crisis of the 1970s, the CIA was aware that the Soviet Union was economically vulnerable to collapse. All that was needed to force the country into bankruptcy was an ongoing military conflict. The United States got its opportunity to give the Soviet Union "its Vietnam" – as members of the Carter administration put it—when it invaded and occupied Afghanistan in 1978. The Islamic fundamentalists that fought the Soviets – including Osama bin Laden – were given covert weapons and training by the CIA and realized, whether through CIA influence or not, that they could win the war against the Soviets just by dragging the conflict out as long a possible.

Osama bin Laden tried to use the same strategy in bringing down the US. As bin Laden is well aware, the differences between the US and the Soviet Union are quite superficial. While the Soviet Union practiced a communism for party elites, giving them the benefits of the empire while the rest of the population waited in bread lines, the US practices a communism for the rich, giving the most wealthy in the country massive state support while everyone else is expected to obey free market principles. Those differences will become even more blurred if the Bush administration gets its way, and uses the current economic crisis to transform the United States into an evenly more blatantly centrally planned economy—something that it has been doing, despite ongoing free market rhetoric, ever since the World War II.

The connection between military quagmire and economic bankruptcy is something that the Bush administration seems oblivious to. In his recent speech to the United Nations, George Bush spoke at nauseating length on the need of governments of the world to devote more resources to fighting terrorism, then ended with only a few remarks on the economy. The claim that his administration has "taken bold steps to prevent a severe disruption of the American economy, which would have a devastating effect on other economies around the world" didn't seem to reassure the rest of the world.

After all, the only solution that Bush has is authorizing the Federal Reserve to put "urgently-needed liquidity into the system." In other words, throw more money at the rich and hope the problem goes away. Underlying these statements is a denial of reality, a belief that a government can foot the bill of massive military expenditures and massive corporate bail-outs—including tax breaks for the wealthiest which would prevent revenue from coming into the reserve—without expecting to go bankrupt.

The obliviousness to the military quagmire/economic bankruptcy connection is not isolated to the Bush administration or to the Republican Party. Many people still cling to the hope that the US war economy can somehow rescue it from the turbulence and downswings of the market like it did during the Great Depression. For example, Washington State Senator Patty Murray—a liberal Democratic—was overjoyed that Washington State was receiving $72 million dollars in military defense work for the 2009 fiscal year. Murray commented that "at a time when our state needs an economic boost, this bill will... provide family wage jobs throughout Washington State." The morality of trying to base a country on a war economy aside, the hope that bombs will lead to economic boom is outrageously naïve. The war economy dragged the United States out of the Great Depression by opening new markets through the building-up of the military-industrial complex. Now, the military-industrial complex is established. No new markets can be created.

More war will only drain government resources that could otherwise be spent on important services at homes. Such services could redistribute wealth and create real purchasing power among the poor – stimulating the economy from the ground up. Unfortunately, the idea that socialism is something for the poor, rather than the rich, still hasn't entered the realm of serious debate in the US.

Both major political party candidates generate rhetoric about cleaning up Wall Street corruption, but neither talks of establishing public programs or returning the commons to the people.

The most important outcome of investing in services at home rather than war abroad would be the suspension of the imperial ambitions at the core of bin Laden's grievances. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have only swelled the ranks of Al Qaeda, and ensured the type of collapse that bin Laden is waiting for. Indeed, we may be long past the point where the choices of the people are either democracy or empire and into the realm where the choices are either democracy or existing at all.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a graduate from the University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica and lives in Chicago, IL. And, like a lot of US residents right now, he really needs a job. Oh well, ¡Viva La Revolución!

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Teresa Tudury
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Sat Nov 8 8pm
Traditions Cafe Olympia
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Tickets 360-705-2819 $12
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Update on the condo conquest of our isthmus

by Janet Blanding

As the folly of unwise overextension in the housing market is becoming alarmingly apparent to the rest of the world, the City Council of Olympia is blithely moving ahead with its plan to gentrify downtown Olympia. With its customary disregard for the will of the public, on Sept. 30, the Council voted five to two to proceed with a rezone that would enable Triway Enterprises to construct high-end condominiums on the isthmus between Budd Bay and Capitol Lake.

The community has really pulled together in opposition to the rezone; although some people call it a divisive issue, the truth is that a huge array of Olympians have joined forces to preserve what they love about their city, bringing together people who usually occupy different social niches.

It's no longer uncommon to see 20-something anarchists in leather pants gathering signatures for the park initiative alongside retirees in their 70's or 80's. In just one month, the city initiative that would require the city of Olympia to conduct a feasibility study of turning the unoccupied portions of the isthmus into a park was signed by nearly 5000 voters in the city of Olympia. As Capitol Park Foundation Chair Jerry Reilly remarked, "As evidenced by the rapid gathering of sufficient signatures to validate this Petition, many people believe that the option of developing the Isthmus as a park needs to be seriously explored."

Roger Polzin, 70, went from door to door in several west Olympia neighborhoods, talking to people about the isthmus rezone issue and gathering approximately 350 signatures for the initiative. According to Polzin, most people were already familiar with the issue and enthusiastically signed the petition. "My biggest challenge was finding people at home," he said. "Once I found them at home, the vast majority signed the initiative."

The initiative was delivered to the City Clerk's office on Sept. 18. During the process of signature verification by the County Auditor's office, a number of signatures were found to be invalid, leaving the initiative 166 signatures short of the required 3819. Many voters with an Olympia address are nonetheless outside of the city itself and are therefore ineligible to vote in city elections, and sign city initiatives. By Sept. 30, several hundred additional signatures had been gathered, putting the initiative back on track.

On Sept. 16, a public hearing was held at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. City spokesperson Cathie Butler, estimated that there were about 500 individuals in attendance. Of these, 287 signed in as opposed to the rezone, while 15 signed in as being in support of it. Unlike the Planning Commission hearing on this rezone, speakers were not taken alternately between pro and con, but randomly; a large majority spoke in opposition.

> 83 spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to raise height limits on the isthmus, while 28 spoke in favor, a ratio of 3 to 1.

Because so many members of the public signed up to speak against the rezone, a second hearing was held on Sept. 21.

At that time, 15 speakers were opposed to the rezone, while 3 spoke in favor of it. All told, 83 spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to raise height limits on the isthmus, while 28 spoke in favor, a ratio of 3-to-1. Of those favoring the rezone, it should be noted that all but a few identified themselves as either Triway employees, downtown business owners, or members of local business associations, such as the ODA (Olympia Downtown Association), Master Builders, or economic development groups.

Opponents to the rezone spoke to a number of objections to the project: the co-option of the views, the danger of sea level rise, the questionable legality of what could be a spot rezone, the disregard for the homeless and other low-income people in favor of the interests of the rich, the questionable likelihood of success for such a project in today's economic climate, the public's preference for a park, and many others.

Triway principal Tri Vo once again reassured the crowd that he was speaking from his heart when he asserted that the Larida Passage project "is the change that will make it possible to finally bring people to live downtown," a statement that no doubt prompted the many downtown residents in attendance to wonder just exactly who Tri Vo considers to be people. Later, when speaker Karen Veldheer described the problems she and other residents of Cooper Crest had experienced as a result of Triway's failure to comply with low impact development practices and audience members turned to see how Tri Vo was reacting to this public discussion of Triway's shortcomings, he was observed to be asleep.

Triway's boosters did their best to discredit the clear evidence of overwhelming public opposition to the project. Rezone advocate Peter Stroble of Oly2012 inflamed the generally courteous crowd at the hearing when he insisted that the majority of Olympians actually supported the Larida Passage project, but their busy lives prevented them from being present at the hearing. Quoting Matthew Kiefer, whom he described as a "Harvard professor," Stroble stated that "Public hearings become forums for those who oppose development; in an increasingly fragmented culture they are what pass for community." Subsequent investigation showed that not only was Kiefer misquoted, but that rather than being a Harvard professor, he is actually a pro-development land use attorney in Boston, who works to overcome public opposition to development projects; Kiefer has guest-lectured at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

This credentials inflation and inaccuracy, the reliance on the magical thinking of trickle-down economics and the presumption that if housing development doesn't happen soon in this exact spot, it would never, ever happen were typical of the hollow arguments put forth in favor of the rezone. Recent events underscore the disastrous results of trickle-down economics and greedy governments that are unresponsive to the will and interest of the people. Olympia isn't the kind of place where the powers that be can pull that kind of stunt with the acquiescence of a passive populace. We will continue to organize, resist, and to protect the integrity of our city.

Along with the majority of Olympia's voters, Janet Blanding opposes the rezone of the isthmus.

Whose city council is this?

by Mike Coday

Are you a member of one of the faith communities who would like to see the City of Olympia commit to be a sanctuary city? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you part of the large group of folks in Olympia who would like to remember Rachel Corrie, a favorite daughter of our community, through a Sister City relationship with Rafah? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you a member of any of the groups who were pleased to have an ordinance declaring the City of Olympia to be a nuclear-free zone? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you a friend of the homeless, or simply a person who thinks that a person should be able to sit down on the sidewalk downtown if they want to? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you a person who enjoys the vibrant night life and the music scene downtown? Do you like to stay up late dancing to live music? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you a person who likes downtown Olympia as it is? Who does not want to see gentrification of our diverse downtown community? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you a person who really likes the view of Budd Inlet, who wants to be able to walk in the downtown area and see the Sound? Bad news, this is not your City Council.

Are you a person who wants to develop property and build a high rise building to maximize your profits, even if it means that it changes the entire nature of downtown Olympia? Congratulations, this may be your City Council.

Folks, maybe it is time to change this City Council.

Initiative petition is delivered. (Photo by Robert Whitlock)